

# (19) United States

## (12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2017/0080770 A1 Irwin et al.

Mar. 23, 2017 (43) **Pub. Date:** 

### (54) VEHICLE RIDE-HEIGHT DETERMINATION FOR CONTROL OF VEHICLE AERODYNAMICS

(71) Applicant: GM GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY **OPERATIONS LLC**, Detroit, MI (US)

(72) Inventors: Kevin Irwin, Royal Oak, MI (US); Edward T. Heil, Howell, MI (US); Jason D. Fahland, Fenton, MI (US); Joshua R. Auden, Brighton, MI (US); Steven A. Opiteck, South Lyon, MI (US); David Dominguez, Tucson, AZ (US); Chris Morgan, Ann Arbor, MI

(US)

(73) Assignee: GM GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS LLC, Detroit, MI (US)

(21) Appl. No.: 15/163,116

(22) Filed: May 24, 2016

### Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 62/220,010, filed on Sep. 17, 2015.

#### **Publication Classification**

Int. Cl. (51)B60G 17/0165 (2006.01)B62D 37/02 (2006.01)B62D 35/00 (2006.01)

U.S. Cl. CPC ...... B60G 17/0165 (2013.01); B62D 35/005 (2013.01); **B62D** 37/02 (2013.01); B60G 2500/30 (2013.01); B60G 2401/21 (2013.01); B60G 2401/15 (2013.01)

#### (57)ABSTRACT

A system is configured to control aerodynamics of a vehicle. The vehicle includes a vehicle body having a front end facing an ambient airflow when the vehicle is in motion relative to a road surface. The system includes an adjustable aerodynamic-aid element mounted to the vehicle body. The system also includes a mechanism configured to vary a position of the adjustable aerodynamic-aid element relative to the vehicle body and thereby control movement of the airflow. The system additionally includes a sensor configured to detect a height of the vehicle body relative to a predetermined reference frame and a controller configured to receive a signal from the sensor indicative of the detected vehicle body height. The controller is also configured to determine a ride-height of the vehicle using the detected vehicle body height and to regulate the mechanism in response to the determined ride-height to control aerodynamics of the vehicle.

